

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-7, 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 were allowed. Claims 22-24, 27, 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Freeman, and claims 25, 26, 28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman. Claims 29, 30, 32 and 34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants and applicants' attorney acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-7, 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 and the indication of allowability concerning claims 29, 30, 32 and 34.

In order to expedite issuance of their patent, applicants have elected to accept the allowed and allowable subject matter. Thus objected to dependent claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 22 and intervening claims 24, 27 and 28 thereby placing claim 29 in allowable form. Similarly, objected to dependent claim 30 has been rewritten in amended form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 22 and intervening claims 24 and 27 thereby placing claim 30 in allowable form. Rejected claims 22-28 have been canceled.

Objected to dependent claim 32 has been rewritten in amended form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 22, and independent base claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34 thereby placing claims 32 and 33 in allowable form. Claims 31 and 34 have been canceled. Claim 35 depends on now allowable base claim 33 and is therefore likewise allowable.

As amended herein, the application contains only allowable claims. Rejected claims 22-28 and 31 have been canceled. Rejected base claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34, thereby placing claim 33 in allowable form. Claim 34 has been canceled. Rejected claim 35 depends on allowable base claim 33 and is, therefore, likewise allowable. Claims 8-10, 14 and 18 were previously canceled, and claims 1-7, 11-13, 15-17 and 19-21 stand allowed.

The amendments made herein clearly do not raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration. To the contrary, the claim amendments made herein consist only of rewriting allowable dependent claims 29, 30 and 32 to independent form and amending independent claim 33 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34. Moreover, the amendment does, on its face, place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with the allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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December 11, 2003

Date